

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-17, 19, 21-25, 27, and 29-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-17, 19, 21-25, 27, and 29-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,742,341 to Ohishi et al. (herein "Ohishi") in view of U.S. patent 6,633,336 to Toyoizumi et al. (herein "Toyoizumi"). Claims 37-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohishi, Toyoizumi and further in view of U.S. patent 6,683,653 to Miyake et al. (herein "Miyake").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note the claims are amended by the present response to clarify certain features and to delete certain features. The features clarified in the claims are directed to the position of the first and second operating units and means at different positions of the display body. As shown for example in Figure 7A in the present specification, a display body 30 with a display screen 31 can be placed in an open position in which the display screen 31 faces the keyboard 21. That feature has now been clarified in the claims as the claims now clarify that the display body can be "in an open position in which the display screen faces the keyboard". The display body 30 can also be in a rotated position with a back surface close to the main body such as shown for example in Figures 7C and 7D in which the display body 30 is rotated and the display screen 31 is on an opposite side as the keyboard 21. Such positions are shown again in Figures 7C and 7D in the present specification. The display body being in such a further "rotated position in which the display body is rotated, a back surface of the display screen is close to said main body, and the display screen is on an opposite side as the keyboard" is also now clarified in each of the claims.

As also clarified in the claims, the at least first operating device, for example the control buttons B1-B4, and the at least second operating device, for example the control dial 32, are positioned on the same left or right side of the display screen 31 when the display body 30 is in the open position. As shown for example in Figure 7A in the present specification the buttons B1-B4 and the control dial 32 are on the same right side of the display screen 31 when the display body 30 is in the open position.

Further, the claims now also clarify that the first operating device, for example the buttons B1-B4, and the second operating device, for example the control dial 32, are on opposite left or right sides of the display screen 31 when the display body is in the rotated position. Again as shown for example in Figures 7C and 7D in the present specification the buttons B1-B4 and the control dial 32 are on opposite sides of the display screen 31 when the display body is in the rotated position, i.e. when the display body 30 is rotated and the back surface of the display body 30 is close to the main body and the display screen 31 is on an opposite side as the keyboard 21.

The features discussed above are now clarified in each of the pending claims, and are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The outstanding rejection cites Ohishi to disclose a video camera having a monitor screen that can be rotated about a hinge, and including a first group of buttons such as an on/off switch and a second group of lesser buttons such as a focusing button.

However, applicants respectfully submit Ohishi clearly differs from the claims as written. As shown for example in Figures 6-11, in Ohishi the display screen 3 pivots about a hinge 7, but does not at all rotate. As a result in Ohishi the position of all the buttons stays the same relative to the left and right sides of the display screen. That is, in Ohishi as the screen 3 does not actually rotate around, it does not take the same “open position in which the display screen faces the keyboard” and “rotated position in which the display body is rotated,

a back surface of the display screen is close to said main body, and the display screen is on an opposite side as the keyboard”, as recited in the claims. Simply, the display screen 3 of Ohishi does not rotate in the same manner as the claimed display body. Again with reference to Figures 7A-7D in the present specification, the display body 30 can be rotated so that the display screen can move from facing the keyboard to being on an opposite side as the keyboard. Ohishi does not disclose any similar operation.

Moreover, as a result of the above-noted deficiencies in Ohishi, Ohishi cannot take positions in which in an open state the first and second operating devices are on a same left or right side as a display screen and in the rotated position the first and second operating devices are on opposite left or right sides of the display screen.

Moreover, no teachings in Toyoizumi are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Ohishi.

Toyoizumi is merely cited to disclose a second group of buttons located on a display body but outside of and operating independently of contact with the screen. However, combining such teachings in Toyoizumi to the teachings in Ohishi still would not meet the above-recited claim limitations and it still would not result in the screen 3 of Ohishi rotating as claimed, and being able to take the claimed open position and rotated position. Such a combination of teachings of Toyoizumi and Ohishi also would not meet the limitations of the positions of the first and second operating devices being on a same side of a display screen in an open position and being on opposite left and right sides of a display screen in a rotated position.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit the combination of teachings of Ohishi and Toyoizumi does not fully meet the features as now recited in the claims.

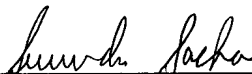
Moreover, no teachings in Miyake are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Ohishi and Toyoizumi as Miyake is merely cited to disclose the use of a control dial.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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